



*JFW*

PATENT

Attorney Docket: 2944 (203-4027)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Paul A. Scirica et al.

EXAMINER: Unassigned

SERIAL NO.: 10/764,103

GROUP UNIT: Unassigned

FILED: January 23, 2004

DATED: September 30, 2004

FOR: **SURGICAL STAPLING DEVICE WITH DISSECTING TIP**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner.

A copy of the foreign patents and publications listed in the attached PTO1449 are included herewith.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art.

---

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 30, 2004.

Dated: September 30, 2004

*Christopher G. Trainor*  
Christopher G. Trainor

The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

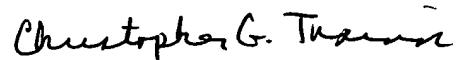
The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- ☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(ii).
  - ☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$180.00. 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))
  - ☐ Please charge the \$180.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- ☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- ☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- ☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or §1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding and/or a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(i) are required for

the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time and/or enter this Information Disclosure Statement as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefor. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher G. Trainor  
Reg. No. 39,517  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

CARTER, DELUCA, FARRELL & SCHMIDT, LLP  
445 Broad Hollow Road  
Suite 225  
Melville, New York 11747  
(631) 501-5700

**Mailing Address:**  
**Chief Patent Counsel**  
**UNITED STATES SURGICAL,**  
**A Division of Tyco Healthcare Group LP**  
**150 Glover Avenue**  
**Norwalk, Connecticut 06856**  
**(203) 845-1000**

CGT:sf

Form PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.:

SERIAL NO.:

2944 (203-4027)

10/764,103

APPLICANTS:

Paul A Scirica et al.

FILING DATE:

GROUP ART UNIT:

January 23, 2004

Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE       | NAME            | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------------|
|                     | 6,722,552       | 4/20/2004  | Fenton, Jr.     |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,698,643       | 3/2/2004   | Whitman         |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,656,193       | 12/2/2003  | Grant et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,602,252       | 8/5/2003   | Mollenauer      |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,594,552       | 7/15/2003  | Nowlin et al.   |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,592,597       | 7/15/2003  | Grant et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,587,750       | 7/1/2003   | Gerbi et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,565,554       | 5/20/2003  | Niemeyer        |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,554,844       | 4/29/2003  | Lee et al.      |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,544,274       | 4/8/2003   | Danitz et al.   |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,505,768       | 1/14/2003  | Whitman         |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,503,257       | 1/7/2003   | Grant et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,488,196       | 12/3/2002  | Fenton, Jr.     |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,443,973       | 9/3/2002   | Whitman         |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,439,446       | 8/27/2002  | Perry et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,330,965       | 12/18/2001 | Milliman et al. |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,325,810       | 12/4/2001  | Hamilton et al. |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,315,184       | 11/13/2001 | Whitman         |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,315,183       | 11/13/2001 | Piraka          |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,269,977       | 8/7/2001   | Moore           |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,264,087       | 7/24/2001  | Whitman         |       |          |                                  |
|                     | 6,264,086       | 7/24/2001  | McGuckin, Jr.   |       |          |                                  |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])

|  |                       |                 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Form PTO-1449<br><br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTY. DOCKET NO.:     | SERIAL NO.:     |
|  | 2944 (203-4027)       | 10/764,103      |
|  | APPLICANTS:           |                 |
|  | Paul A Scirica et al. |                 |
|  | FILING DATE:          | GROUP ART UNIT: |
|  | January 23, 2004      | Unassigned      |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE       | NAME                 | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------------|
|                     |  | 6,250,532       | 6/26/2001  | Green et al.         |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 6,241,139       | 6/5/2001   | Milliman et al.      |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 6,202,914       | 3/20/2001  | Geiste et al.        |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 6,197,017       | 3/6/2001   | Brock et al.         |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 6,010,054       | 1/4/2000   | Johnson et al.       |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 6,109,500       | 8/29/2000  | Alli et al.          |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 6,079,606       | 6/27/2000  | Milliman et al.      |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 6,032,849       | 3/7/2000   | Mastri et al.        |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 6,004,335       | 12/21/1999 | Vaitekunas et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,954,259       | 9/21/1999  | Viola et al.         |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,918,791       | 7/6/1999   | Sorrentino et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,911,353       | 6/15/1999  | Bolanos et al.       |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,901,895       | 5/11/1999  | Heaton et al.        |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,897,562       | 4/27/1999  | Bolanos et al.       |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,871,135       | 2/16/1999  | Williamson IV et al. |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,865,361       | 2/2/1999   | Milliman et al.      |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,862,972       | 1/26/1999  | Green et al.         |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,836,147       | 11/17/1998 | Schnipke             |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,833,695       | 11/10/1998 | Yoon                 |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,829,662       | 11/3/1998  | Allen et al.         |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,826,776       | 10/27/1998 | Schulze et al.       |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,823,066       | 10/20/1998 | Huitema et al.       |       |          |                                  |

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])

|  |                       |                |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Form PTO-1449<br><br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTY. DOCKET NO.:     | SERIAL NO.:    |
|  | 2944 (203-4027)       | 10/764,103     |
|  | APPLICANTS:           |                |
|  | Paul A Scirica et al. |                |
|  | FILING DATE:          | GROUP ART UNIT |
|  | January 23, 2004      | Unassigned     |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE       | NAME            | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------------|
|                     |  | 5,820,009       | 10/13/1998 | Melling et al.  |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,817,109       | 10/6/1998  | McGarry et al.  |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,816,471       | 10/6/1998  | Plyley et al.   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,810,855       | 9/22/1998  | Rayburn et al.  |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,810,811       | 9/22/1998  | Yates et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,797,538       | 8/25/1998  | Heaton et al.   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,797,537       | 8/25/1998  | Oberlin et al.  |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,797,536       | 8/25/1998  | Smith et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,782,397       | 7/21/1998  | Koukline        |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,782,396       | 7/21/1998  | Mastri et al.   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,779,132       | 7/14/1998  | Knodel et al.   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,779,131       | 7/14/1998  | Knodel et al.   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,779,130       | 7/14/1998  | Alesi et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,769,303       | 6/23/1998  | Knodel et al.   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,762,256       | 6/9/1998   | Mastri et al.   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,762,255       | 6/9/1998   | Chrisman et al. |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,752,644       | 5/19/1998  | Bolanos et al.  |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,749,893       | 5/12/1998  | Vidal et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,743,456       | 4/28/1998  | Jones et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,735,848       | 4/7/1998   | Yates et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,728,110       | 3/17/1998  | Vidal et al.    |       |          |                                  |

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])

|  |  |  |            |                                      |       |                              |                                  |
|--|--|--|------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Form PTO-1449  |  | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE |            | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>2944 (203-4027)  |       | SERIAL NO.<br>10/764,103     |                                  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary)  |  |  |            | APPLICANTS:<br>Paul A Scirica et al. |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  |  |            | FILING DATE:<br>January 23, 2004     |       | GROUP ART UNIT<br>Unassigned |                                  |
|  |  |  |            |                                      |       |                              |                                  |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  |  |  |            |                                      |       |                              |                                  |
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL  |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER   | DATE       | NAME                                 | CLASS | SUBCLASS                     | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|  |  | 5,716,366  | 2/10/1998  | Yates                                |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,713,505  | 2/3/1998   | Huitema                              |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,711,472  | 1/27/1998  | Bryan                                |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,709,334  | 1/20/1998  | Sorrentino et al.                    |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,704,534  | 1/6/1998   | Huitema et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,697,542  | 12/16/1997 | Knodel et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,692,668  | 12/2/1997  | Schulze et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,690,269  | 11/25/1997 | Bolanos et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,680,982  | 10/28/1997 | Schulze et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,676,674  | 10/14/1997 | Bolanos et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,673,842  | 10/7/1997  | Bittner et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,673,841  | 10/7/1997  | Schulze et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,673,840  | 10/7/1997  | Schulze et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,669,544  | 9/23/1997  | Schulze et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,667,517  | 9/16/1997  | Hooven                               |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,662,666  | 9/2/1997   | Onuki et al.                         |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,662,662  | 9/2/1997   | Bishop et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,662,260  | 9/2/1997   | Yoon                                 |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,662,259  | 9/2/1997   | Yoon                                 |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,662,258  | 9/2/1997   | Knodel et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,658,300  | 8/19/1997  | Bito et al.                          |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,657,921  | 8/19/1997  | Young et al.                         |       |                              |                                  |
| EXAMINER   |  |  |            | DATE CONSIDERED                      |       |                              |                                  |
| * EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |  |  |            |                                      |       |                              |                                  |

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])

|  |  |  |            |                                      |       |                              |                                  |
|--|--|--|------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Form PTO-1449  |  | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE |            | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>2944 (203-4027)  |       | SERIAL NO.<br>10/764,103     |                                  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary)  |  |  |            | APPLICANTS:<br>Paul A Scirica et al. |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  |  |            | FILING DATE:<br>January 23, 2004     |       | GROUP ART UNIT<br>Unassigned |                                  |
|  |  |  |            |                                      |       |                              |                                  |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  |  |  |            |                                      |       |                              |                                  |
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL  |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER   | DATE       | NAME                                 | CLASS | SUBCLASS                     | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|  |  | 5,655,698  | 8/12/1997  | Yoon                                 |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,653,721  | 8/5/1997   | Knodel et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,653,374  | 8/5/1997   | Young et al.                         |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,647,526  | 7/15/1997  | Green et al.                         |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,645,209  | 7/8/1997   | Green et al.                         |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,636,780  | 6/10/1997  | Green et al.                         |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,634,584  | 6/3/1997   | Okorochoa et al.                     |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,632,432  | 5/27/1997  | Schulze et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,630,541  | 5/20/1997  | Williamson, IV et al.                |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,630,540  | 5/20/1997  | Blewett                              |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,630,539  | 5/20/1997  | Plyley et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,628,446  | 5/13/1997  | Geiste et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,626,587  | 5/6/1997   | Bishop et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,624,452  | 4/29/1997  | Yates                                |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,607,095  | 3/4/1997   | Smith et al.                         |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,601,224  | 2/11/1997  | Bishop et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,597,107  | 1/28/1997  | Knodel et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,588,581  | 12/31/1996 | Conlon et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,588,580  | 12/31/1996 | Paul et al.                          |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,586,711  | 12/24/1996 | Plyley et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,577,654  | 11/26/1996 | Bishop                               |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,573,543  | 11/12/1996 | Akopov et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,564,615  | 10/15/1996 | Bishop et al.                        |       |                              |                                  |
|  |  | 5,562,682  | 10/8/1996  | Oberlin et al.                       |       |                              |                                  |
| EXAMINER   |  |  |            | DATE CONSIDERED                      |       |                              |                                  |
| * EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |  |  |            |                                      |       |                              |                                  |

(Form PTO-1449 (6-4))



|  |  |  |            |  |       |                               |                                  |
|--|--|--|------------|--|-------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Form PTO-1449  |  | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE |            | ATTY. DOCKET NO.:<br>2944 (203-4027)     |       | SERIAL NO.:<br>10/764,103     |                                  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary)  |  |  |            | APPLICANTS:<br><br>Paul A Scirica et al. |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  |  |            | FILING DATE:<br>January 23, 2004         |       | GROUP ART UNIT:<br>Unassigned |                                  |
|  |  |  |            |  |       |                               |                                  |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  |  |  |            |  |       |                               |                                  |
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL  |  | DOCUMENT NUMBER  | DATE       | NAME                                     | CLASS | SUBCLASS                      | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|  |  | 5,562,241  | 10/8/1996  | Knodel et al.                            |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,562,239  | 10/8/1996  | Boiarski et al.                          |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,553,765  | 9/10/1996  | Knodel et al.                            |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,551,622  | 9/3/1996   | Yoon                                     |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,535,937  | 7/16/1996  | Boiarski et al.                          |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,535,934  | 7/16/1996  | Boiarski et al.                          |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,531,744  | 7/2/1996   | Nardella et al.                          |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,529,235  | 6/25/1996  | Boiarski et al.                          |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,518,164  | 5/21/1996  | Hooven                                   |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,518,163  | 5/21/1996  | Hooven                                   |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,489,058  | 2/6/1996   | Plyley et al.                            |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,487,500  | 1/30/1996  | Knodel et al.                            |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,485,947  | 1/23/1996  | Olson et al.                             |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,484,451  | 1/16/1996  | Akopov et al.                            |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,474,566  | 12/12/1995 | Alesi et al.                             |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,470,010  | 11/28/1995 | Rothfuss et al.                          |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,470,007  | 11/28/1995 | Plyley et al.                            |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,467,911  | 11/21/1995 | Tsuruta et al.                           |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,465,895  | 11/14/1995 | Knodel et al.                            |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,464,300  | 11/7/1995  | Crainich                                 |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,452,837  | 9/26/1995  | Williamson, IV et al.                    |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,447,265  | 9/5/1995   | Vidal et al.                             |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,433,721  | 7/18/1995  | Hooven et al.                            |       |                               |                                  |
|  |  | 5,431,323  | 7/11/1995  | Smith et al.                             |       |                               |                                  |
| EXAMINER   |  |  |            | DATE CONSIDERED                          |       |                               |                                  |
| * EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |  |  |            |  |       |                               |                                  |

(Form PTO-1449 [6-41])

|  |                       |                 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Form PTO-1449<br><br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTY. DOCKET NO.:     | SERIAL NO.:     |
|  | 2944 (203-4027)       | 10/764,103      |
|  | APPLICANTS:           |                 |
|  | Paul A Scirica et al. |                 |
|  | FILING DATE:          | GROUP ART UNIT: |
|  | January 23, 2004      | Unassigned      |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE       | NAME                             | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|------------|----------------------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------------|
|                     |  | 5,417,361       | 5/23/1995  | Williamson, IV                   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,415,335       | 5/16/1995  | Knodell, Jr.                     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,415,334       | 5/16/1995  | Williamson, IV: Warren P. et al. |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,407,293       | 4/18/1995  | Crainich                         |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,397,324       | 3/14/1995  | Carroll et al.                   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,397,046       | 3/14/1995  | Savage et al.                    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,395,034       | 3/7/1995   | Allen et al.                     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,395,033       | 3/7/1995   | Byrne et al.                     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,383,880       | 1/24/1995  | Hooven                           |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,381,943       | 1/17/1995  | Allen et al.                     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,376,095       | 12/27/1994 | Ortiz                            |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,364,003       | 11/15/1994 | Williamson, IV                   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,332,142       | 7/26/1994  | Robinson et al.                  |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,326,013       | 7/5/1994   | Green et al.                     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,318,221       | 6/7/1994   | Green et al.                     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,312,023       | 5/17/1994  | Green et al.                     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,307,976       | 5/3/1994   | Olson et al.                     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,170,925       | 12/15/1992 | Madden et al.                    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,141,144       | 8/25/1992  | Foslien et al.                   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,129,570       | 7/14/1992  | Schulze et al.                   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,111,987       | 5/12/1992  | Moeinzadeh et al.                |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,083,695       | 1/28/1992  | Foslien et al.                   |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,074,454       | 12/24/1991 | Peters                           |       |          |                                  |

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])

|  |                       |                 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Form PTO-1449<br><br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTY. DOCKET NO.:     | SERIAL NO.:     |
|  | 2944 (203-4027)       | 10/764,103      |
|  | APPLICANTS:           |                 |
|  | Paul A Scirica et al. |                 |
|  | FILING DATE:          | GROUP ART UNIT: |
|  | January 23, 2004      | Unassigned      |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE       | NAME               | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|------------|--------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------------|
|                     |  | 5,065,929       | 11/19/1991 | Schulze et al.     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 5,040,715       | 8/20/1991  | Green et al.       |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,991,764       | 2/12/1991  | Mericle            |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,892,244       | 1/9/1990   | Fox et al.         |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,863,088       | 9/5/1989   | Redmond et al.     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,784,137       | 11/15/1998 | Kulik et al.       |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,728,020       | 3/1/1988   | Green et al.       |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,703,887       | 11/3/1987  | Clanton et al.     |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,671,445       | 6/9/1987   | Barker et al.      |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,633,874       | 1/6/1987   | Chow et al.        |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,633,861       | 1/6/1987   | Chow et al.        |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,610,383       | 9/9/1986   | Rothfuss et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,608,981       | 9/2/1986   | Rothfuss et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,602,634       | 7/29/1986  | Barkley            |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,589,413       | 5/20/1986  | Malyshev et al.    |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,505,414       | 3/19/1995  | Filipi             |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 4,429,695       | 2/7/1984   | Green              |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 3,490,675       | 1/20/1970  | D.T. Green et al.  |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | 3,079,606       | 3/5/1963   | B.S. Bobrov et al. |       |          |                                  |
|                     |  | Re34,519        | 1/25/1994  | Fox et al.         |       |          |                                  |

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])

|   |                       |                |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| Form PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTY. DOCKET NO.      | SERIAL NO.     |
|   | 2944 (203-4027)       | 10/764,103     |
|   | APPLICANTS:           |                |
|   | Paul A Scirica et al. |                |
|   | FILING DATE:          | GROUP ART UNIT |
|   | January 23, 2004      | Unassigned     |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE    | COUNTRY  | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|--|--|--------------------|---------|----------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|  |  |                    |         |          |       |          | YES         | NO |
|  |  | 0666057            | 8/1995  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0593920            | 4/1994  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0705571            | 4/1996  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0140552            | 5/1985  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0324635            | 7/1989  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 89/10094           | 11/1989 | WO       |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0156774            | 10/1985 | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0216532            | 4/1987  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0536903            | 4/1993  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0552050            | 7/1993  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0598579            | 5/1994  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0621006            | 10/1994 | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 2660851            | 10/1991 | France   |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 2903159            | 7/1980  | Germany  |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 3114135            | 10/1982 | Germany  |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 4213426            | 10/1992 | Germany  |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 659146             | 4/1979  | U.S.S.R. |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 9308754            | 5/1993  | WIPO     |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 9314706            | 8/1993  | WIPO     |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0589306            | 3/1994  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0591946            | 4/1994  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0592243            | 4/1994  | EPO      |       |          |             |    |
|  |  | 0621009            | 10/1994 | EPO      |       |          |             |    |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])

|  |  |                                      |  |                              |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Form PTO-1449    U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>2944 (203-4027)  |  | SERIAL NO.<br>10/764,103     |  |
|  |  | APPLICANTS:<br>Paul A Scirica et al. |  |                              |  |
|  |  | FILING DATE:<br>January 23, 2004     |  | GROUP ART UNIT<br>Unassigned |  |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |  |                    |         |                    |       |          |             |    |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|---------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|                          |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE    | COUNTRY            | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|                          |  |                    |         |                    |       |          | YES         | NO |
|                          |  | 0656188            | 6/1995  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 2681775            | 10/1991 | France             |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 4300307            | 7/1994  | Germany            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 980703             | 12/1982 | Russian Federation |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 990220             | 1/1983  | Russian Federation |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0136950            | 4/1985  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0220029            | 4/1987  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0213817            | 11/1987 | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0273468            | 7/1988  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0324638            | 7/1989  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0373762            | 6/1990  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0380025            | 8/1990  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0449394            | 10/1991 | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0484677            | 5/1992  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0489436            | 6/1992  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0503662            | 9/1992  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0514139            | 11/1992 | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0537572            | 4/1993  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0539762            | 5/1993  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0545029            | 6/1993  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0579038            | 1/1994  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0598202            | 5/1994  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0365153            | 8/1995  | EPO                |       |          |             |    |

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])

|  |  |                                      |  |                              |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Form PTO-1449    U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>2944 (203-4027)  |  | SERIAL NO.<br>10/764,103     |  |
|  |  | APPLICANTS:<br>Paul A Scirica et al. |  |                              |  |
|  |  | FILING DATE:<br>January 23, 2004     |  | GROUP ART UNIT<br>Unassigned |  |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |  |                    |         |                |       |          |             |    |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|---------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|                          |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE    | COUNTRY        | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|                          |  |                    |         |                |       |          | YES         | NO |
|                          |  | 2542188            | 9/1984  | France         |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 2744824            | 2/1980  | Germany        |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 1555455            | 11/1979 | United Kingdom |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 2070499            | 9/1981  | United Kingdom |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 2141066            | 12/1984 | United Kingdom |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | WO9210976          | 7/1992  | WIPO           |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | WO8302247          | 7/1993  | WIPO           |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0324637            | 7/1989  | EPO            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0041022            | 12/1981 | EPO            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0324166            | 7/1989  | EPO            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0324637            | 7/1989  | EPO            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0369324            | 5/1990  | EPO            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0373762            | 6/1990  | EPO            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0399701            | 11/1990 | EPO            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0552050            | 7/1993  | EPO            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 0552423            | 7/1993  | EPO            |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 728848             | 5/1977  | U.S.S.R.       |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 1352554            | 4/1971  | United Kingdom |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 1452185            | 10/1976 | United Kingdom |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 2048685            | 12/1980 | United Kingdom |       |          |             |    |
|                          |  | 2165559            | 4/1986  | United Kingdom |       |          |             |    |

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])